IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for forming a ~~small diameter elongated device~~ guidewire for use in a medical procedure comprising forming a male end at an extremity of a first elongated member formed of a first continuous material, forming a female end at an extremity formed of a second continuous material, and permanently securing the male end of the first elongated member within the female end of the second elongated member.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein formation of the female end comprises forming a hole by electrical discharge machining.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein formation of the female end comprises forming a hole by laser drilling.

4. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the first continuous material is different from the second continuous material.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the first and second continuous materials comprise a biocompatible material selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers and composites.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the group consists of stainless steel and Nitinol.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein securing the male end to the female end is selected from the group consisting of soldering, welding and gluing.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein forming the male end comprises plunge grinding.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~small diameter elongated device~~ guidewire for use in a medical procedure comprising a first elongated member having a male end at an extremity formed of a first continuous material permanently secured within a female end at an extremity of a second elongated member, the extremity of the second elongated member formed of a second continuous material, which is permanently secured within a female end of a second elongated member.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 9 wherein the female end is formed by electrical discharge machining.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 9 wherein the female end is formed by laser drilling.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 9 wherein the first and second continuous materials comprise biocompatible materials selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers and composites.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 12 wherein the group consists of stainless steel and Nitinol.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 9 wherein the male end is secured to the female end by a bond selected from the group consisting of solder, weld and glue.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~elongated device~~ guidewire of claim 9 wherein the male end is formed by plunge grinding.

16 – 17 (Canceled).

Please add new claims 18 - 19 as follows:

18. (New) A guidewire comprising an elongated proximal core portion having a female end disposed at a distal extremity of the proximal core portion formed from a first continuous material; a distal core portion having a male end disposed at a proximal extremity of distal core portion, with the male end permanently secured within the female end; and a flexible body member disposed about and secured to the distal core portion.

19. (New) A process for constructing a guidewire comprising providing an elongated proximal core portion having a male end disposed at a distal extremity of the proximal core portion formed from a first continuous material including stainless steel; providing a distal core portion having a female end with a predetermined depth disposed

at a proximal extremity formed from a second continuous material including a nickel-titanium alloy, with the male end permanently secured within the female end; and

disposing a flexible body member about and secured to the distal core portion.